

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

At the outset, applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 9-16 have been allowed and that claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, thereby placing claims 1 and 3 in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been cancelled.

Note in this regard that if claims 4, 5 and 6 remained in the case (and noting the change to claim 1), they would be duplicative of claims 10 and 11.

Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled since they are duplicative of claims 10 and 11. New claim 17 has been added, the claim directed to a combustor for a gas turbine including a liner having a substantially cylindrical shape and a flow sleeve surrounding the liner. The claim further requires a first plurality of axially spaced, continuous circumferential grooves formed in an outside surface of the liner, each groove having a uniform cross section and extending continuously about the circumference of the liner.

In citing Vogt (U.S. 4,236,378) against claims 1, 3 and 6, the Examiner asserted that the reference teaches "a combustor liner 42" for a gas turbine, the combustor liner 42 having a substantially cylindrical shape; and a plurality of axially spaced annular grooves G, referring to column 3, lines 21-28 and column 4, lines 6-12.

In fact, component 42 in Vogt is not a combustor liner but rather, an outer shell that surrounds the combustor liner 44. Thus, at best, the outer shell 42 in Vogt corresponds to the "flow sleeve" surrounding the liner as recited in new claim 17. Of course, it is apparent from various figures in Vogt (for example, see Figure 6), that there are no axially spaced, continuous

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circumferential grooves are formed in an outside surface of the liner 44. Rather, the liner 44 is made up of a series of flat panels 60 (see column 4, lines 19-29).

Note is also made of the arrangement in Figure 7 of Vogt where the liner panels 76 are formed with a longitudinally extending fins 77 in combination with "panel support bulbs 78." Here again, however, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a plurality of axially spaced, continuous circumferential grooves as required by claim 17.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims 1, 3, 8-11 and 14-17 are in condition for immediate allowance, and early passage to issue is requested. In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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